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sitting Up With the Century.

There will be more people awake and alert along the midnight line as it moves maje tically around the globe to-night than ever before since history began. Sitting up to see the old year out and the new year in is a familiar practice, abandoned for the most part at the stage of life when sentimental enthusiasm yields to common sense and a full appreciation of the justice of the blessing invoked by SANCHO PANZA. Sitting up to see the old century out and the new century in is a different affair; if it is worth doing at all it must be done now or

We heartily approve of any ceremonious attention which any individual may purpose to pay to the event of his lifetime. It is true that the emotion actually experienced by the celebrant at the strike of twelve will be in some respects disappointing. Nothing sensational will occur, exwithout a skip or a caper. The moon will in the Twentieth century as she did one second earlier in the Nineteenth. If the stars to act as he sees fit in the premises. are out they will twinkle precisely as they did before the old died and the new was born. Human nature will undergo no more change than it does in crossing the equator. or any other imaginary line. The conditions of existence will change only at the old rate; no faster. The foolish will be no before. Good resolutions incident to the fold more impressive, but they will endure just as long and no longer than the ordinary annual performance.

orderly thing in the world, this transference of ourselves by the hands of the clock into the Twentieth century; and yet when the minute hand begins to get away from the hour hand no man on earth, not even Will-LIAM of Germany, can ever hope to revisit the beautiful Nineteenth. Make the most of it while it lasts, and sit up to-night to present a fair face to its inscrutable suc-

The Congested Blind Eye of Aladdin Atkinson

The Hon. EDWARD ATKINSON has been eating some of the products of the Aladdin Oven, although his physicians have often warned him of his danger. The products have gone to his bile and head and have found vent in a letter to the Springfield Republican. The United States Navy makes sad and mad the worthy cook-statistician and statistics-cook. He scratches the paint of the ships "constructed under the dishonorable and for the disgraceful purpose of 'commerce destroyers.'" He tries to smash "the useless marine engines called battleships," but becomes almost happy for a moment in the thought that there is no prospect of "our ever being able to man them." Hear him console himself with his

"It is one of the highest signs of progress in our the working people of this country as to induce them to enlist in the naval service in sufficient numbers to man even the present navy. The prospect of enlisting ippine Islands is yet worse from the point of the firgo-yet more encouraging from the point of view of a true citizen. Yew but deadbeats and degenerates will now enter that vicious and degraded service."

According to Mr. ATKINSON, neither men nor officers can be induced to enter that vicious and degraded service. The Government may build ships, but there will be nobody to man and command them. Obviously the navy must come to an end when the country is thoroughly atkinsonized. What is the matter with Mr. ATKINSON? Hundreds of persons have asked this question. At last he answers it himself:

"There must be a physical cause. Is it not to be found in that appendix, said to exist in the brain, or survival from the brute, which corresponds to the appendix in the digestive organs, which, when con gested, destroys the power of digestion? This cen bral appendix is said to be in the mechanism of a blind eye at the base of the brain, apparently fitted for use, except that no ray of light ein peneirate i through the outside integuments. When this tline eye bee mes congested, does it not promote cerebr appendicitis, leading men to put down their heads, like butting rams or he goats"

Every time Mr. ATKINSON partakes of Aladdin Oven messes, his blind cerebral eye is congested, his cerebral appendix follows suit, and he butts against the solid walls of common sense and common knowledge. He needs an operation.

The House Membership.

The unusual celerity and thoroughness with which this year's census was taken, and the accuracy and completeness of the results as ascertained, render it possible for the present Congress to make the new apportionment of Representatives soon after its sessions are resumed. Usually heretofore, there has been a much longer interval between the Federal enumeration and the Congressional apportionment.

There are now pending for consideration several Apportionment bills, differing chiefly in respect to the total of House have to carry. New sciences and lanmembership provided for. Some of the guages of new importance crowd upon m asure-contemplate an enlargement of the House, while others are designed to prevent | Tacrrus, only easier to read. it. One bill retains the membership of the House of Representatives at the present number, which is 357, but increases the

173,000 to 208,000. made against any further increase, the apportionment of 1843 cutting down the membership to 223. Ten years later it was inat every subsequent apportionment until after 1870, when the number was 293. After 1880, the number of Representatives was then there has been the addition of one mem-

ber on account of the admission of Utab. There is now a strong disposition to main-

tion than the adoption of 208,000 as the necessary to be dull to be accurate. basis would give them. The membership ties in the Italian Parliament is 508. The should be licked into shape. membership of the Austrian Reichsrath is 425 and the Hungarian House of Representatives has 453. By comparison with these parliamentary bodies in other countries, therefore, the present membership of the House of Representatives does not seem to the advocates of its enlargement to be ex-

cessive. Two reasons are urged in opposition to the plan of increasing the House. One is physical. Our Representatives meet in a hall already overcrowded and not easily expansible. The other reason is the fact that a larger membership would tend to divest the House of much of its deliberative character and impede the orderly transaction of

legislative business. The membership of the House of Representatives once agreed upon by the acceptance of a ratio of representation, the details of the allotment of members between the States is a simple question of arithmetic.

Freedom of Contract Sustained

There is a provision of the Penal Code of New York that any employer of labor, who shall compel any person to enter into an agreement not to join or become a member of any labor organization, as a condition of such person's securing emplayment or continuing in the employment of any such employer, shall be guilty cept as it is contributed by the imagina- of a misdemeanor. This provision, of course, tions of the assistants. Father Time him- | merely means that an employer cannot self will keep right on in his placid course enter into an agreement with any person not to join or not to become a member of shine as tranquilly, if the heavens are clear, a labor union, and where no agreement whatever is made, the employer is left free

In Illinois, two years ago, the Legislature passed an act entited, "An act to protect employers and guarantee their right to belong to labor organizations," which seems to have been somewhat more tion of our Penal Code. In that State wiser, and the wisest will be as foolish as REUBEN GIBBONS, a carpenter, complained of CHARLES GILLESPIE, a contractor and time may seem at the moment a hundred- builder of Danville, because he dismissed positive rule as to this subject in Longwood the carpenter for joining a local labor county, fined the employer \$25 and costs It will be the easiest, most natural and for violating the statute by discharging nations. Still, the demon of dissension has his employee.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has just reversed this conviction, and has held the State law of 1898 to be unconstitutional. The court holds that as under the State Constitution, a man cannot be deprived of his life, liberty or property without due process of law, and as the rights of liberty and property include the right to acquire act of the Legislature is void because it minate a contract with an employee, which is essential to personal rights, and which is accorded by the Constitution alike to the employer and to the laborer.

This construction of the Illinois Consti-Constitution, as well as in the Federal Constitution, is found the same provision that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law." And the Supreme Court of the United States holds that the liberty so guaranteed includes freedom of contract,

A Duty of the Historian. In an address before the joint session

of the American Economic Association and the American Historical Association, at Detroit last week, Mr. JAMES FORD where. It may be in the use of hitherto inaccessible or unprinted material, or i may be in the employment of some sources of information open to all but not used before, or it may even be the fresh combination of well-known and well-elaborated facts." In his temperate and accurate history of the United States since

are innumerable special studies, many contributing to the task of the writer who essays to cover a considerable period, sible. The annals of the world are monstrously long. Memory sags under the Vatican published these instructions: accumulations, and the weary student envies the Accadians and even more the lake men and the cave men of the times before history.

The tendency is to spread out all the facts, to follow into the small corners of detail the often tedious processes of diplomacy and war. The late Mr. FREEMAN loved to preach that history is a whole, but he would have spared his readers some duli pages if it had occurred to him that the whole history of any time is too much of a good thing. Even in the sound and solid works of SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER it is often impossible to see the woods for the trees. Sometimes it seems as if the new school of historians was, for all its quotations

and its documents, substantially as baid as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles; and good old ABIEL HOLMES'S "Annals of America" would be a good model for some of the ong-winded brethren who love to spin history out and to leave little untold. The memory is now loaded with a multitude of things which the earlier men did not

the mind. One longs for historians like

Yes, after all, the trouble is not one of compression or diffuseness or even of se- | of these illustrious compeers. Occasional lection. In an address before the Wis- letters, speeches and solemn thoughts cannot quesa of population for each member from consin Historical Society a few weeks ago, Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS be-After the First census the number of Rep- sought attention to the importance of resentatives was 105. It increased to 213 style in the historian. It is style, albeit a after the census of 1820. The census of little too stately and periwigged, that 1830 carried it up to 240. A stand was then | makes Gibbon still a delight. Macaulay's style, irritating as it sometimes is, keeps his books fresh. A charming style redeems, for many readers, JAMES ANTHONY creased slightly, and there were increases Frombe's perpetual and hopeless inaccuracy and inability to get the evidence right. The style of GOLDWIN SMITH is beautiful in its perspicuity. The poetry, the wild fixed at 325, and after 1800 at 356, and since imaginations, the humor and the insight into human nature of CARLYLE'S "French Revolution " have made it a classic, in spite of all its extravagances and its dispropor-

the next ten years, but previous indications to read STUBBS more and his pupil, GREEN, Fromise has not been kept. If campaing part of States claiming a larger representa- be combined and told with art. It is not

But if it be regarded as beneath the digof the House of Commons is 670. The num- inity of the historian to make history interber of Deputies in the German Reichstag is 'esting, the investigator and student should the improved bill with a rush, not forgetting, at who recently repaired and painted the spire D. C. 397. The French Chamber of Deputies has a have an associate who is a writer of merit the same time, its unfulfilled promise of more | that towers skyward high above the roof of | with a considerable amount of skill as a markmembership of 584. The number of Depu- and by him the great mass of material, than thirty-seven years ago.

The Eleven-Cent Meal in Illinois.

On Christmas Day the Longwood Cooperative Home Association cooperated joyfully the three preceding months. Eight fathers and eight mothers and diverschildren made merry. The children were jolly on general principles. The mothers rejoiced because they had escaped since October the monotonous labor of cooking three meals a day. The association was founded by Mrs. THOMAS CHAMBERS. Her purpose was to lighten the tasks of women who cannot afford to keep servants. On Oct. 3 certain families began taking their meals together. At first each woman in turn was the culinary director and mistress of the table, but the system of rotation was found unsatisfactory and a permanent manager, a member of this cooperative feeding association, was

selected. At present eleven families eat in the association. They use the lower floor of the home of one of the members as their refectory, but they want a house of their own. They long for a two-story house with a big dining room, a savory and comfortable kitchen and offices, and attractive chambers for the servants. Their only trouble so far has been in keeping the servants, for whom the accommodations have been inadequate.

the bills of fare of the association, but the bill of costs is as follows:

Cost for single meals (average)11 Cost for a family of three for three months. 92.10 to be pitied. Expenditure for servants per month Rent il of dining room and kitche : per month. 20,00 To at cost per mouth for fifty persons 550.00

The price; seem reasonable and the food must be competent or the association could coercive against employers than the sec- not bave held out for three months. Dissension is the danger which, next to imprudent management, such a cooperative boarding house has most to fear. The only union. The County Court of Vermillon religious matters. The members are also

boarding house has most to fear. The only positive rule as to this subject in Longwood is the prohibition of the introduction of religious matters. The members are also church members, but of different denominations. Still, the demon of dissension has a thousand ways of coning in; and people the matter of the standard ways of coming in; and people that with one another and with one another another another another another another another another a property by labor and by contract, the of boarders the smaller will be the cost to deprives the employer of the right to ter- | see vast beautiful public halls where everytution is important, because in every State | institution seems to be going on prosper-

the privacy and the sweet seclusion of

When the women without servants have been made happy, who will mitigate the RHODES said that "a historian, to make woe of the many women who keep or try to his mark, must show originality some- keep servants, and find there is no living with them or without them?

Beginning and End. It is a year and over since THE SUN time the nineteenth century stopped and of to-night as the dividing line. It of them excellent in themselves and all will be well to give here the two formal recognitions of this chronology given by the head of the Church possessed of the task becoming harder every year and strongest claim to continuous existence destined, apparently, to become impos- since the beginning of the Christian era, the Pope. For December 31 of 1899, the

> " It is most becoming that we who are about to celebrate the commencement of the Holy Year, happily proclaimed by our Holy Father LEO XIII., should n the depth of night, rise to greet the Author of time

and prostrate before His altars. "Since, at midnight of the last day of the coming year the present century will come to an end and new one begin, it is very appropriate that thanks be for the benefits received during the course of the present century.

To-night ends the Holy Year, and in due course the decree from the Vatican, issued last November, directs its celebration:

"To the King of the ages, CHRIST JESUS, it is above all befitting that all the redeemed, in whatever parts of the world they may be, should solemnly consecrate the end of the waning century, now at hand, and the beginning of the new century hastening toward us, so that both thanks may be given for the benefits received from Him, especially in the century that has clapsed, and that amid such adverse vicissitudes, in affairs, He, pitiful and merciful, may bestow on us more powerful aid to enter happily upon the new

century. It will be a world celebration. Gratitude for the past and hope for the future to all!

The Hon. WHARTON BARKER has long had weekly newspaper from which to emanate upon the public. Col BEYAN will have one next month. Why shouldn't the Ho GROVER CLEVELAND follow the example equal in influence the steady, wearing weekly drip of intellect and consecration.

Representative COWNERD of Missouri has introduced a bill in Congress which should please disabilities and disqualifications than human nature agood many persons. I provides for giving a medal to those who served in the army during the war with Stain. There can be no particular objection to the gift; but at the same time, it would be more in accordance with the rules which should govern the bestoxal of medals were the gift restricted to those troops that took active part in the campaigns of the Spanish war-to those that served in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philips ines. The distribution of medals to soldiers who have taken I art in specific cam-laigns is a Britishicustom, followed also by the French; meda's were promised by Congress to stream of the Lull Begrud, which washes the hollows the militia troops which took part in the Gettystain at 3 the membership of the House for tions. This is wrong, of course. We ought burg campaign thirty-seven years ago, but the Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 27.

medals were given to the men who saw active attained only after an active fight on the shall not live by facts alone. They must service, we think justice would be done generously. There is no reason why the navy should From the Cleveland Leader. le forgotten, either, when medals are distrib-Climbing tall church steeples is an easy uted. Let Mr. COWHERD withdraw his present bill, and introduce another based on justice for healthful and pleasant way of making a livboth army and navy; and then let Congress; ass ing, according to Joseph B. Perry, the man

> The green, yellow, and blue cravats of this fervid Texan are not intended to attract attention. His soul shrinks from notoriety, 49 years now, and he says that when a man is and it is not true that he hires the Capitol in a dinner and calebrated its triumphs of guides to point him out to visitors and say steeple jack business. He is one of the most

We have not had the privilege of seeing a fine show and an immense and jovial crowd

ness they can It is proposed to pay a a stated salary. This idea is favored all classes, without reference to views be boure question. all classes, without the liquor question.

MRS. CRAIGIE SUSTAINED.

Will Have Charge of Library Branches Independently of Librarian Bostwick.

The Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Public Library Has approved the action of the Executive Committee in extending the term of office of Librarian Bostwick and Assistant printed an exhaustive discussion as to the Librarian Mrs. Mary E. Craigle, until Feb. 1. moment when in the great relay race of | This, it is said, means that Mrs. Craigie has won the battle with Mr. Bostwick who decurate history of the United States since time the nineteenth century stopped and 1850 Mr. Rhodes has shown all these forms of originality, a quality which scarcely Some, a very few, it will be remembered and sired to have her dismissed. The Administration Committee will neet next month of originality, a quality which scarcely Some, a very few, it will be remembered and sired to have her dismissed. The Administration Committee will neet next month of originality, a quality which scarcely some, a very few, it will be remembered. The Admin-next month of originality, a quality which scarcely enters into the common conception of historical writing. Perhaps the besetting sin of the modern historian is the propensity to give rather the raw material of history than history proper. There are innumerable special studies, many of to-night as the dividing line. It

Col. Posey Wilson on Kentucky Veracity.

TO THE EDIT BY OF THE SUN-Size In last Sun day's SUN I read of some so called Kentucky man's nfession that in the Goebel case he is powerfully forsworn. And the said affant further alleges, on his oath, that many, variegated and far-resounding lies are his, all made when he was well drunken with the Falernian of Franklin county; that it pleased devil Drunkenness, as Michael Cassio hath it, to lead him to violate the unalloyed truth.

Now, I have studied the Kentucky folk as Gulliver did the Brobdigger, or as Bryan the young man Absalom-with a love of them and their noble country love the fields of the Blue Grass region, the templed hills of the eastern counties, the mountempled hills of the eastern counties, the mountain streams and lowland ponds, and all therein that is. All the kinds of "hoss" are known unto to me, all the things which "ba'h down" on the growing tobacco, all the great steam stills, berne down with heavy taxes, the apple brandy stills, "in the beautiful hills, in the hollow hills." And I know the distant monilit dells where live the men who scorn to stant monilit dells where live the men who scorn to stant monilit dells where live the men who scorn to stant monility. foul their lips with fotch in (taxed) liquor; who cease their work at dawn of day, preventing and following the shidows of the wood-"following darkness like a dream." Where Bad Tom Smith's shade gildes "in pale places under the moon" my feet have borne me. whilst the elf-horns were blowing, and the mountain maids miking the deer.

Familiarly have I walked with the men 'related as mountain speech says it, in the French Eversole feud; with Bakers, Howards, Tollivers, Philipots, all our words combses and others laurelled in the glorious "wars" and icelandic. of the bill folk. Right well know I the Kentucky women of town and field:

"That in the fairy dawnslike shadows rise, And float into the lives and minds of men. The powerful charm of truth and candor is theirs.

ing with layor and prettiness. The paradigm Kentucky woman is, as the greatest of modern knights would say, "A thing to thank God dors." And a though the Kentucky man, in his off momente, may be, like brother Hamlet Indif-firent bonest as to "norrating" events, races, heats, for butts, campmeetings, orations, and things of

he consangualty, when he is filled with the spirit

e wid speak the truth though the disrupted globe

fall in ruins about him To do contrariwise would place him under more could hear. The Kentucky man in his cups-or such r in his quarts-tells the truth without variableness, excepting to make the same clearer and stronger —a little more to the strength of the horse, more symmelty to legs of the man, greater skill to the shooter a sweeter cadence to Col. Jack Chinn's song, a little more honey on Joe Blackburn's mellifluous lips, and

beauty in errels is to the Kentucky maiden If John o Noakes has said, in sober cups, that he lied when in the joyful seats to which a Frankfort lawyer's best would translate him, he is not a Ken- | field, a prominent and trusted young man, was con-

ROOM ENOUGH AT THE TOP.

streets. He has been long at the business life comfortably on the ground at his farm such near Alpena, Mich. Perry is getting toward | done. and it is not true that he hires the Capitol

guides to point him out to visitors and sand

"That's JOE BAILEY, the junitor of the Constitution." Seeing what he sees and knowing
what he knows, he seeks to set forth in allegory
by his many-colored crayats the hues into
which he changes when the Constitution
is jumped upon by dictators and despots.

The Hon, JOHN PATRICK HOPKINS, now
or formerly a Gold Democrat, seems to have
sentched the control of the Chicago Democratic machine from the Hon, Carter Harmisson. The latter statesman declared last
fall that if he were a workingman he would
punch the head of anybody who said "full
definer pail" to him. Are such true Democratic sentiments to be rewarded with such
ingratitude?

The twentieth century—peace be with
the Emporor William and with Mr. Kontisear of Chicago!—will get a hearty Good
Morning from this town. A great chorus
of German singers and the Choral Union
mill sing the old year out and the new one
in, and the City Hall and Park will be ablaze
with light and fireworks. A somewhat theread in this just before midnight and their
fer he programme will be the estinguishing
of the lights just before midnight and their
fireworks will begin to splutter. It will be
a fine show and an immense and jovial crowd
a fine show and an immense and jovial crowd
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worked at until I began climbing steeple altogether for a living. There was a steeple 154 feet high, and they wanted somebody put a cross in place on top of it. The sp was a slender one, and it was thought that would not be strong enough for a man to would not be strong enough for a man to go on top of it. They advertised for two years or some one to put the cross in place, and no one undertook the job. I made up my mind hat I could do it all right, and I did. Mr pliver made the plans for me, and told me ust what to do after I got to the top of the steeple. The cross was made of galvanized ron and only weighed 164 pounds, so that I was able to handle it all right with the assistance of the men on the ground to haul on the ropes for me. was able to lander it the ground to haul on the ropes for me

"The highest spire I ever climbed was 315 feet high. It is on the cathedral in Ottawa, Canada. I gilded the cross on that St. John's steeple here, the one I have been at work on, is 262 feet high, including the cross, which is twelve feet high. I have left a rope around the base of the cross, so that it will be easier work when it comes to gilding the cross next spring. I always take a contract to finish a job for so much no matter how long it takes. If the weather is bad so that I cannot work, it is my loss. "I have never been nervous or dizzy whe I was on a steeple since I stopped usin tobacco. I used to be a hard smoker, an when I was not smoking I was chewing a the time. I used to be such a smoker the smoke a pipe. I got so that I was dizzy at unsteady, and left afraid sometimes. Ye doctor told me that if I didn't stop usit tobacco I would get a fall some time. tobacco I would get a fall some time. I made up my mind to stop, and I have not used a speck of tobacco since."

CATHOLIC INDIAN BUREAU.

The Very Rev. William H. Ketchum May Be Appointed as Its Head.

WASHINGTON, Dec 30 - The Very Rev William H. Ketchum of the see of Oklahoma who resides at Antlers, in the Indian Terr Stephan deems it expedient to a exacting duties into younger hands

New St'boy Theory

TO THE EDITION OF THE SUN-Sir: I have en loyed intensely the efforts to show that "steboy" can rom the Greek dative and that the "su" in "subboy was from the Latin sus. Some people seem to think that there isn't any such thing as English, but that all our words came from the Greek, Latin, German

Equally ridiculous is the derivation of "steboy" from Hist a boy. I don't care if Emerson did say so. Mi He did not know everything. Without knowing too much myself, may I suggest that the "ste" of the word comes from the old English stigan, to mount, The word is combined with "rope" in "stirrip." I suspec', loo, that we use the same word when we say "Let's stick him for the drinks." Stig him, boy should be a command to the dog to mount the pig or c imb on him to bite his ear and thus drive him. fancy that "subboy," which is the way I heard it wi I was a boy th central Obio, is the same thing softened

BROOKLYN, Dec. 28.

The List Is Now Closed Until Next Century. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SET TO YOU gallery of immorta's I wish to add the name of the worthy Mayor of North Tonawanda, Cook Oil, Does he fill the bill? W. J. ROUSE. NORTH TONAWANDA, N. Y., Dec. 31,

Society's Confidence But Sitghtly Diminished. From the Des Moines Daily News

MASON CITY, Dec. 27 .- Because he wanted to suitable wedding clothes and didn't have money to spend on them and a diamond ring, too, Eilis Bloom pelled to submit to arrest last night. He was dis covered in Ensign's clothing store by Officer Cou after midnight. A rear window had been forced in. Society people were shocked and refused to believe he would have taken more than one suit.

WHAT IS FINE MARKSMANSHIP? The Views of an American Expert Now Sojourning in Australia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN of Sept. 16 there appears an account of the "wonderful shooting" of Senhor Assis Brasil, Brazilian Minister to Washington Now, while crediting the Senhor St. John's Cathedral at Eric and Superior | man, the newspaper reporter, on this occasion, appears to labor under what might be Mr. Balley's new necktiest attracting a great deal and has made enough money to retire in a termed a temporary delusion when he beyear or so and spend the remainder of his comes excited about what are really not

> In enumerating the feats performed by 50 years old he is old enough to give up the the Senhor, the writer states that "driving should have been disposed of. The first steenle jack business. He is one of the most tacks into a sheet of paper, the length of a was that tobacco leaf grown by the Governverandah away, is too tame an affair for the

with a string tied to the head and one to the point. Let this string be pulled and the marksman hit the tack and drive it into is something new and I would suggest a trial. Then, when with some little practice, he can shoot the fack readily when it is drawn up, let some one draw it downward and the shooter have a shot at it as it falls, if he be not particular about wasting ammunition. Further on the reporter states that the the target while being drawn upward. This Further on the reporter states that the "stage tricks" of a professional can all be done by the Senhor. Can they? This is, indeed, most refreshing, yet I would mildly suggest that the accomplished marksman in suggest that the accomplished m

suggest that the accomplished marksman in question should try some of the following little feats:

Shooting backward with the rifle held at the elbow. The rifle here rests on the hollow of the left arm, while the trigger is pushed with the thumb of the right hand. A looking glass is held in the left hand of the marksman between the thumb and foreitinger and the remaining three fingers grasp the small portion of the rifle stock.
Shooting at a swinging object, a difficult shot to make with a rifle.
Shuffing two candles with one bullet, being careful only to shuff and not break the candles while held in the hands.
Shooting a potato from the hand with the rifle held at the back of the head, with the upper part of the small of the stock held at the base of the skull, sighting with the left eye, a most wonderful shot never attempted before by any rifleman in the world except the writer.

Other shots can be performed at private

state that this feat can be performed just as easily with three matches as with five, though the latter make a better show. The writer of this letter remembers to have seen his grandfather do this and similar tricks for the amusement of the children.

It is, however, a comforting reflection that the Senhor never attempted any "head shots," as so many rash enthusiasts have done and have come to grief in this line.

Two I know of in New York, one in the Park Theatre, Brooklyn, at the time under the management of Col. Sinn, the other in Rochester Variety Hall, five cases in this country where the victims were either killed outright or suffered mutilation. or suffered mutilation. clusion. I may remark that this letter is not written in any spirit of rivairy, for I always admire "a foeman worthy of

MY steel."
A GLOBE-TROTTING AMERICAN SHARPSHOOTER
PARRAMATTA, New South Wales, Nov. 9.

THE WORKINGWAN'S SHARE. Further Light on the Payrolls of the Great

Railway Corporations. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your edi orial in yesterday's paper, "The Workman's Share," does not go deep enough to satisfy a fair-minde person. If the term employee includes the higher fficials, your summing up is very misleading, as t reduce the average for a vast army of the common laborers very much, and it should be borne in mind that nearly all, if not all of the high-priced ones, are owners in the company and therefore get that much in addition to their dividends. Your friend, VALHALLA, N. Y., Dec. 25. O. F. STAPLES.

It is a fact, ascertained by careful computaions of railroad financial officers, that for several years from 95 to 98 per cent of all the moneys expended by railroad comranies in this country for salaries and wages has gone to frainmen, trackmen, engine men, station men low-priced clerks and the miscellaneous em loyees whose ray is comparatively small. The aggregate pay of the President, Vice-President and general officers of a railroad never exceeds ter cent, and rarely goes above 3 per cent. fall the money raid out to employees.

In the late-t annual report i-sued by the Pennsylvania Ruilroad for the calendar year 1899 it is shown that \$9,083,274 was raid in wages to "ordin ry employees" of the Pennsylvania divi-ion of the system, while the aggre gate salaries of the President and all of the general officers amounted to but \$242,560, con iderably less than 3 per cent, of the whole amount These figures do not include many hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to labor, but charged on the books to "repairs," "relaying track," "building of bridges," &c. In 1899 the Pennsylvania division of the great Pennsylvania y tem increased its payments to "ordinary abor" \$902,002, while the increase in salaries of general officers amounted to (3,635.

The selection of Presidents and Vice-President of railroads in Pennsylvania are not regarded estrayogent by reflroad men generally. The Pennsylv nia R ilroad in particular does not pay is high salaries to its general officers as do neny other railroads. There have been exag cerated recort; about President Cassatt's sale ry. Men versed in reilroad matters know well that President Cassett could command a much larger salary then he is now getting if he would enter the service of any one of half a do en railrouss.

A Western View of the Shipping Bill.

From the St. Paul Globe. The matter of freight rates is the only thing that vill interest the West in the Ship Subsidy bill farmets of Minnesota con't care a rap as to what accommodations the millionaires find on making their annual trip to Europe, but any measure that will lower ocean freight rates directly concerns every American farmer. If London is paying \$1 for wheat and the cost of handling and transportation from ota to London is 20 cents, the Minnesota farmer Minnesota to London is 20 cents, the Minnesota farmer will 194 80 cents for his wheat; but if freight rates re lowered five cents a busiled the farmer will get 85 cents. Hence, any measure that will cause a permanent reduction of ocean freight rates can count n strong support from the farmers of the West. It is reported that Senator Hanna will insist on the passage of this bill, that he will "raise the roof" necessary and force it through anyway. There s no need of all that. If he will have the bill put in such a form as to convince the people that it will stimulate American shipping and result in lower freight rates the advantage of all, the people themselves will er about pushing it through, even if the Senator hould go fishing.

As Burns Didn't Say It.

Auld Year, as you are 'bout to lea'e For parts unkend to me. I wiss you'd tak some extra grub An' get a pass for three.

Misery an' Want wad like to tak A trip off for their health But keep an ce on batth o' them They'd kill you for your wealth.

An' now Auld Year, as you must gae, Guld bye an' fare thee weel;

An' gin ye get a chance, below,

Just push the twa in hell. POUGHEEPSIE, Dec. 81.

PROF. WHITNEY EXPLAINS

Why Tobacco Men Pid Not Have a Chance to

Bid on Connecticut Sumatra. WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 -The publication of the successful results of the experiments conducted by the Division of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture in ecoperation with the Connecticut experiment station in the production of Sumatra tobacco, near Hartford, and the subsequent sale of the crop to a Kansas City firm, has ments among tobacco men. Numerous comsuch extraordinary feats, after all is said and | munications on the subject have been received by the Department and two suggestions made as to the manner in which the tobacco should have been disposed of. The first ment should not have been sold, but should have been distributed in small quantities Now, I agree with this statement, but I to dealers in leaf tobacco and other intershould like to see the shootist try at a tack ested persons. The other was that if it had

to be sold a should have been auctioned off at New York, Philadelphia and other points, so as to give all leaf dealers an equal chance.

In reply to these communications and suggestions Prof Milton Whitney, Chief

people Growers are again warned against attempting to grow this tobacco except when there is a reasonable chance of success. So far as known the successful growth of Sumatra will be confined to Florida and Con-

and Fark will be addate service. A somewhat the striking and potential part A will be the extinuishing A before noticulated and the besin to splatfort. It will be been to splatfort. It will be been to splatfort. It will be done and to have a forth noise and the bear of the bear of

vision similar to a section of the House bill the latter more general in effect, however, which was stricken out on its passage. ,The Senate bill seems to limit the provision for increase of rank on the retired list to officers increase of rank on the retired list to officers now on the active list below the rank of Brigadier General, and those who have been retired "since April 21, 1808," which would exclude those already on the retired list many of whom served in the Civil War. It surely cannot be intended to forget these officers in the distribution of rewards for service rendered else what is meant. There are not so many of them left, and their number is rapidly diminishing. Should they not be included?

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.

FOREIGN MILITARY AND NAVAL NOTES.

The turn of events in South Africa has caused the German Government to call on the Rhenish Machine and Metal Goods Company to cancel its contract with the British Government to supply field batteries for rearming the British artillery. In the note ! which the desire of the German Government was con veyed to the company, the Government expressed the hope that it would follow out the directions in the same loyal manner as the firm of Krupp at Essen had obeyed the instructions which it had received to

the same effect at the beginning of the war. Sir Charles Warren of Spion Kop notoriety has been appointed to the command of the British forces

Since the loan of \$5,000,000 and the sale of guns to the Persian Government by Russia, the Persian Army is being reorganized under Russian instructors, who are now urging a considerable increase to

The new methods and armaments in war have, t is stated, produced considerable modifications in the principles of first mobilization in war hithert held in Germany. War now, said Col, von Bernhard! of the German general staff in a recent lecture delivered in Berlin, would be so sudden that only the troops maintained near the frontier could take part in the first attacks which should be delivered with unparal leled force, and by shocks which it should be the en deavor to make terrific. If Col. von Bernhardt inter prets rightly the new principles, then the mobilization plans of 1870 have been set aside as regards the fron tier force, and the French and Russians would have to make corresponding changes on their side. The French appear to have foreseen something of the kind several years ago, their frontier system being such as to form an impenetrable screen behind which to gather for an advance in case of Germany's taking the initiative, or as basis for an initial movement on their own part. The Russians only recently seem to have recognized the necessity for making the changes imposed by the new conditions.

The azitation which has been going on in Belgiun for several years to bring about a reorganization of the army has at last led to the appointment of a com mission to deal with the whole question of national defence. It is said that no radical changes in the present system are likely, and that the demand of party for personal service will be negatived in favor of a reduction of the present term of service, and at increase of the contingent.

The question of a new field gun for the Austrian Army is still under discussion. There are advocate of a nickel steel and of a bronze gun; meanwhile the Austrian artillery remains armed with an antiquated

The new Japanese cruiser Yakumo, which was built at Steitin and recently sailed for Japan, has so far given the greatest satisfaction. The system of ventilation is so perfect, it is asserted, that during her passage of the Red Sea the temperature of the engine and boiler rooms was not much more than half that in British ships. Her engines worked perfectly during the voyage out from Germany.

The French Asiatic squadron has been divided into three groups. The first and most powerful has its headquarters in the Gulf of Pechtil at the base of operations in northern China, with one ship detache Nagasaki and one or two at Chefoo, these being re lieved at intervals. The second group will be sta tioned at Shanghal, and its business will be to watch the Yangtse and the neighboring islands as far as Foochoo. The third will patrol the coast from Foo choo to the Tonquin frontier, and is composed of vessels of the smaller class with one cruiser.

distriction description of the launce of the

The Prench Northern squadron has been mod civisions instead of three, each under an Admira and it has been decided that its evolutions and these of the Mediterranean squadron are to be identical. that at any moment the two may combine without any change of system for either. The two armored divisions have a uniform speed of 18 knots; the first has its main armament coupled in two turrets, while In the second the four turrets are disposed quadriater-